

May 26, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TWO CLERKS OF COURT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

John O'Grady,
Franklin County Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas

Several times a day, the receptionist in our Administration Office receives calls from people asking about a court date on their speeding ticket. Franklin County residents send email to us, through our web site, inquiring about the forms necessary to put their rent money into escrow. Last fall, several people approached me asking me who Lori Tyack was (having seen her yard signs during the election season) and didn't I just run for re-election within the past few years? Does my office only carry a two-year term?—and similar questions of this nature.

What many people may not be aware of is that there are two of us—two Clerks of Court in Franklin County. Although we both work in the Franklin County Government Complex, within the three attached courts buildings on South High Street between Mound and Fulton Streets, the offices are two separate entities.

The Legal Division of my office, the Franklin County Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, serves as the record-keeper for the Common Pleas Courts. The General Division includes civil complaints in which the monetary amount in contention is over \$15,000 and criminal felony cases.

We also support the Division of Domestic Relations and Juvenile: divorce cases, custody cases, and juvenile felony and juvenile traffic cases. In addition, my office maintains the records for the 10th District Court of Appeals.

My colleague in the building next door, The Honorable Lori Tyack, serves as the Franklin County Municipal Clerk of Courts. The Clerk of the Municipal Court maintains the records for misdemeanor and traffic cases, small claims suits and civil complaints under the dollar amount of \$15,000.

All criminal cases are arraigned (the first appearance before a judge) in Municipal Court where it is determine whether the crime was a felony or a misdemeanor. If deemed to be a felony, the defendant is then bound over to be tried in the Court of Common Pleas.

Cases involving buildings, housing, air pollution, sanitation, health, fire, zoning and safety codes are heard by the judge of the Environmental Division of the Municipal Court and the files are maintained by the Municipal Clerk's office.

So, if you want to know the status of a civil suit over 15K, a criminal felony case, or an case in appeal; if you want a copy of your divorce decree; if you want to find out if your minor must appear in court for a traffic violation, call our office—the Franklin County Clerk of Courts of Common Pleas at (614) 462-3600. Our web site is www.franklincountyclerk.com

However, for adult traffic violations, criminal misdemeanor violations, small claims suits, questions about escrow, or buildings that are not up to code, contact the Franklin County Municipal Clerk's office at (614) 645-7657. Their web site is www.fcmcclerk.com

Although we are happy to redirect callers to the Municipal Clerk's office, it will save you time if you know which Clerk's office you want to contact before you pick up the phone.

In addition to acting as the support system for the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and the 10th District Court of Appeals, my office sells and maintains certificates of title for automobiles, boat and trailers. But that is a topic for another column.

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